

How You Can Help!

Get your friends and family involved to send Congress your message. Write, call, email, or fax in your support for our delegation as they lobby our Congressional representatives to protect the housing, community and economic development and human service funding targeted for cuts in President Bush's proposed FY 2006 Budget.

Use the attached letter to call or write your Congressional representative to "Sound the Alarm!" on March 8, 2005. You may also fax or mail your petitions to:

U.S. House of Representatives

Representative Jay Inslee
1st District (North Seattle)
403 Cannon HOB
Washington, DC 20515-4701
Toll free: 1-800-422-5521
Fax: 202-226-1606
www.house.gov/inslee

Representative Jim McDermott
7th District (Greater Seattle)
1035 Longworth HOB
Washington, DC 20515
Tel: 202-225-3106
Fax: 202-225-6197
www.house.gov/mcdermott

U.S. Senate

Senator Patty Murray
173 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510
Tel: 202-224-2621
Fax: 202-224-0238
<http://murray.senate.gov>

Senator Maria Cantwell
717 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510
Tel: 1-888-648-7328/202-224-3441
Fax: 202-228-0514
<http://cantwell.senate.gov>

If you decide to call, you may also dial 1-888-818-6641 and ask to be connected to your Representative's office.

Ask to speak to the Legislative Assistant responsible for Budget Issues. Hang up and call again to speak to your Senators' offices.

The Message:

"Representative/Senator___ should oppose the FY2006 budget proposal because:

- It will cut spending on CDBG programs and other critical low-income programs, causing deep cuts to these programs over the next five years by 35%.
- CDBG helps thousands of Seattle residents each year, and uses a larger percentage of CDBG funds than most jurisdictions to support services that predominately help extremely low-income or homeless persons.
- The President's budget request protects tax cuts for the wealthy, while gouging low-income programs."

SOUNDING THE ALARM AGAINST PRESIDENT’S PROPOSED CUTS!

<Insert date>

Honorable <insert Name of senator or representative>

<Insert either United States Senate or United States House of Representatives as appropriate>

<Address>

Washington, DC <Zip Code>

Dear <Senator (surname)/ Representative (surname)>:

I am writing to urge you to reject President Bush’s plan to eliminate Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) and 17 other programs by consolidating them into one new program called the “Strengthening America’s Communities” initiative at the Commerce Department. This proposal will cut CDBG funding by 35 percent and would have severe impacts on our locally based housing, community and economic development and human service programs.

CDBG helps thousands of Seattle residents each year, and uses a larger percentage of CDBG funds than most jurisdictions to support services that predominately help extremely low-income or homeless persons and distressed communities.

In Seattle, CDBG funds are critical to leveraging funding for programs that help serve the needs of our most vulnerable residents. Some successful projects include:

- **Courtland Place, Rainier Valley** – Redevelopment of 208 units of senior rental housing (51% low income) and 9,000 square feet of new ground-floor commercial space. Development costs were \$24 million, with CDBG contributing \$2.5 million.
- **Croft Place, Delridge Neighborhood** – A 21-unit new construction project for low-income families, including seven formerly homeless families supported by the Sound Families program. Total development costs are \$5.89 million, with the Seattle Office of Housing funding \$1.9 million in CDBG and Housing Levy dollars.
- **Refugee Women’s Alliance Services Center, Southeast Seattle** – Received \$580,000 in CDBG assistance to develop a new two-story social services facility in Southeast Seattle.

CDBG funds are often a key piece of funding to launch community development projects and to help make projects that are otherwise difficult to finance actually happen. Because they can generate private and state matching dollars, any cut to Seattle would actually result in a much deeper financial loss.

Again, I urge you to protect the housing, community and economic development and human service funding targeted for cuts in President Bush’s proposed budget.

Sincerely,

<Your Name>

<Your Organization Name If Applicable>

<Your Address>

<Your City>, WA <Your Zip Code>